

Armed Forces Day

29 June 2013
Piccadilly Gardens

11:00 - 17:00 Manchester shows its appreciation and support of the Armed Forces and veterans with an afternoon of live music and dancing, food and drink, a Military Veterans parade and a host of fun activities in the city centre.

Activities will run from 11am to 5pm and include:

- Veterans' Static Parade of Standards
- Live music and dancing throughout the afternoon
- Military display of vehicles, and information stalls
- Family-friendly activity, including flight simulator, climbing wall and face-painting
- Food and drink available throughout the day
- Picnic-style seating area.

Once again there will be special offers available for Armed Forces personnel and veterans on production of your Veteran's Badge or Armed Forces ID card - please check back here nearer the time for details or look out for one of the leaflets in May.

Veterans - if you're interested in taking part in the Parade of Standards, please register before the day. This helps us to plan for space and refreshments needed.

Please contact Linda Fell at the Royal British Legion, 0161 638 9236, LFell@britishlegion.org.uk.

WEB SITE

We now have a Greater Manchester County Web Page—
Mr David Brown is our Web Master. If any Branch has information, photographs or anything of interest please forward to County Office. The website address is
<http://www.britishlegion.org.uk/counties/greater-manchester>
or the other website is
<http://www.greatermanchester-britishlegion.org.uk/>

THE ROYAL BRITISH
LEGION



Greater Manchester County Newsletter

May Edition 2013

Manchester City FC Celebrates a Team Victory for the Poppy Appeal



They may have only secured one point from their last game with Liverpool, but Manchester City players still had a reason to celebrate after announcing they have raised a whopping £15,000 for the Poppy Appeal.

Ahead of the premier league game last Sunday, former players Paul Lake and Alex Williams presented the fundraising amount to Colour Sergeant Paul Watson and three fellow guardsmen from the Irish Guards.

Last November the club pledged their support for the Legion by wearing shirts embroidered with the poppy emblem for their clash against Tottenham Hotspur on Sunday 11th. The shirts were then auctioned off to fans, raising £13,000, and an additional £2,000 was raised from bucket collections at the match and staff contributions.

Community Fundraising Manager for the Legion, Vickie Butcher, who was delighted to attend the cheque presentation said: "Congratulations to Manchester City FC for raising such a fantastic amount for the Poppy Appeal. We are extremely grateful for the support the club and its supporters have shown once again this year. The money raised by City will help us continue our vital work protecting the interests, welfare and memory of the Serving and ex-Service community."



The Royal British Legion Ashton-under-Lyne Branch in conjunction with Curzon Ashton F.C. and East Manchester Junior Football league are pleased to present "A football extravaganza" To help celebrate



Armed Forces Day

Saturday 22nd June 2013

5-a-side Football

For under 7's



At

Curzon Ashton Football Club

Tameside Stadium, Richmond St,
Ashton-under-Lyne, OL7 9HG

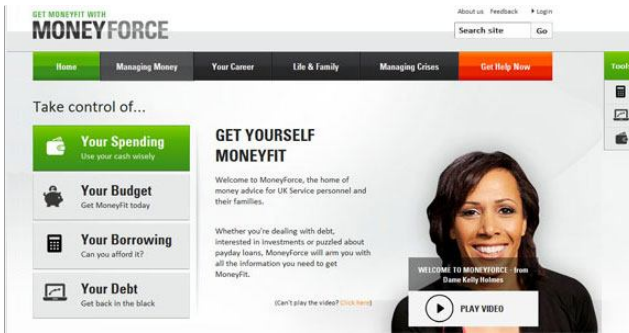
Kick-off 10.00 am



Plus Military Vehicles, Food Stalls and

plenty for the family to do





MoneyForce is a new programme designed to improve the financial capabilities of members of the Armed Forces.

The focal point of the programme is the MoneyForce website that has been created and delivered by The

Royal British Legion, working in collaboration with the MOD. Funding for the project has been provided by the Standard Life Charitable Trust to support greater financial capability and the very specific needs of service personnel.

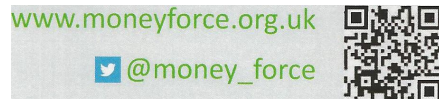
Introduced by former Army PTI Dame Kelly Holmes, MoneyForce also features video case studies, based on true life stories from the Armed Forces community.

Topics covered on the site include planning your finances - including when going on deployment or getting a new posting - as well as dealing with crises, such as problem debt, injury or illness. Members of the Armed Forces and their families can find information relevant to their situation, whether they've just joined up or are planning a family or about to retire.

Covering all aspects of personal finance, the MoneyForce website and associated training programme encourages service personnel to get 'MoneyFit' by taking control of their own finances.

The site includes:

- o Interactive tools including a Budget Planner, Credit Card Calculator and Car Costs Calculator
- o Motivational Tips for a healthier wallet and brighter future
- o Quizzes for users to test their knowledge on a range of money topics



Retired Seafarers & WRNS pick up the phone and say a huge thank you to Seafarers UK

Life and work at sea is largely unreported, apart from Maritime disasters, and not understood by the majority of the population. Demanding and dangerous as this occupation can be, it also involves repeated periods away from home and loved ones. For many seafarers, career change or retirement deprives them of the onboard companionship that has sustained them throughout their days afloat. Ageing, changes in domestic circumstances and financial problems often lead to feelings of loneliness and isolation. The Maritime Charities Funding Group's research identified this serious problem amongst the growing numbers of retired seafarers. Former seafarers say it's the close onboard friendships that they miss most when their seafaring days are over. But the major on-going difficulty has been in locating them, and establishing that first point of contact. At the last MCFG Conference there was much discussion about these retired seafarers acknowledging that isolation and loneliness is a huge issue that they face on a daily basis and with this in mind we continue to look for more seafarers to benefit from Seafarers Link. **The news that Seafarers UK has given Community Network a grant to ensure that we can continue to support these seafarers for the next 2 years has been very welcome.**

On hearing the news that his phone calls can continue 89 year old, ex radio officer Frank Kelly who has been involved in these phone calls for the past four years says *"once anyone has spent time at sea one becomes quite unfit for any other kind of company except seamen. Seafarers Link provides the unique opportunity to chat and swing the lamp with people who talk the same language"*

Community Network is the UK's only charity using teleconferencing technology to deliver social care and support to residents across the country. Having worked with the local seafaring charities, Community Network set up **Seafarers Link** to establish befriending groups across the UK to alleviate this isolation. This link also enables these seafarers to chat about and share stories from their seafaring experiences. The first group was launched in Hull in June 2009, and today the project remains active, with eight participating groups linking seafarers from the Shetland Islands down to Cornwall. Within these groups there are two virtual **Royal Navy Association** groups whose main purpose is to keep members no longer able to attend branch meetings due to ill health, in touch. All of the group link-ups have given retired seafarers the opportunity to exchange stories and experiences, to develop new friendships, and occasionally to provide simple solutions to shared problems. Community Network has produced a CD of some of the wonderful stories that have come to light during the phone calls, and this has ensured that at least some of those old tales from during and after World War II remain written down for the future.

Group facilitators are recruited and trained by Community Network to conduct and manage the phone calls. Their voluntary involvement with the project is invaluable and their confidence and skills contribute to the success of these informal discussions. Many of these facilitators are former seafarers, or sea-wives, but a marine background is not important, and we are always seeking more volunteers to run new groups.

Age, location, change of profession, disability and ill health are contributing factors to their feeling of social isolation. Whatever the circumstances, the fortnightly group conversations and exchanges help people to build and maintain relationships and camaraderie within their group. This provides a sense of social connection and well-being for those suffering isolation and depression.

The benefits of the services that Community Network give has been highlighted in a recent Department of Health funded study by the Institute for Volunteering Research, "Volunteering and health: good practice case studies". Paul Burstow, Minister for Care Services, launched the Department for Health's revised vision for volunteering. The vision presented a number of examples of "good volunteering" practice, demonstrating the benefits to the health and well being of both volunteers and service users. *Seafarer's Link* was cited as one example of good practice.

Seafarers Link is unique in its concept and is one of the most successful projects run by Community Network, awarded "*The Most Innovative Use of Technology in Delivering a Helpline Service*" by The Helpline Association's (THA) February 2010.

For more information about Seafarers Link or how telephone befriending groups can offer help and friendship, please call

Chris Rankin MBE, Project Manager 01752 812674 Chris@community-network.org
Community Network on 0845 619 9992 www.community-network.org

The North Regional Independent Living Team covers all of the North Region offering Home Visits to clients that are ex service or their dependants for all disability benefits including Employment & Support Allowance, Disability Living Allowance, Personal Independence Payment, Attendance Allowance and Carers Allowance. Our team help the client with everything from the initial application through to reconsiderations, supersessions and appeals. Once working with the client we would also help advocate for the client with community care/ aids and adaptation issues.

Please email or phone The Regional Lead as below for further information or possible referrals.

Kind regards

Joanne
jparry-statter@britishlegion.org.uk
01616389232

Links to Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) to apply for funding for local WWI Centenary Projects:

If you have projects and proposals linked to the WWI Centenary and need to apply for funding, the best route is to talk to the HLF. Click on the links below for guidance.

<http://www.hlf.org.uk/HowToApply/whatwefund/FirstWorldWar/Pages/FirstWorldWar.aspx>

<http://www.hlf.org.uk/HowToApply/whatwefund/FirstWorldWar/Pages/FAQs.aspx>

http://www.hlf.org.uk/HowToApply/whatwefund/FirstWorldWar/Documents/Remembering_FWW_leaflet.pdf

The National Football Museum opened at Urbis in Manchester City Centre in July last year.

It is a brilliant new attraction, suitable for all ages that is perfect for a great team day out. Entry to the museum is free and for groups we offer guided tours and special discount on our Football Plus+ interactive games, one of which is our Penalty Shootout- taking penalties in front of the real Wembley goal posts!

Please contact me if you would like a free introduction to the museum or would like to make a booking for any of your groups.

Or see our website for more details.

Many Thanks

Jeannie

Jeannie Cullen
Groups Co-ordinator

jeannie.cullen@nationalfootballmuseum.com

0161 8718 145

President: Sir Bobby Charlton | **Vice Presidents:** Sir Alex Ferguson | Sir Tom Finney | Sir Trevor Brooking | Sir Geoff Hurst **Special Ambassador:** Mark Lawrenson

The new exhibition **Strike a Pose: Fifty Years of Football & Fashion** at the National Football Museum **1 Feb – 27 August 2013 #strikeapose**

The National Football Museum is a registered charity; number 1050792
Find out more about supporting us at www.nationalfootballmuseum.com/support-us/play-a-part

NEW! Shop Online with the National Football Museum. Unique gifts and memorabilia available at www.nationalfootballmuseum.com/shop - FROM FEBRUARY 2013

Below my signature you will find a listing of the key dates identified by the Government during the Centenary period, reflecting timings of planned national and international events and activities.

Please note these dates do not reflect official Legion activity but are ones you should be aware of as particular milestones in the Centenary journey. Also listed are links to the HLF website where you will find comprehensive guidance and support for applying for funds for your projects. Please use your own judgement as to whether a project or activity is relevant and appropriate and let us know if you think it could have national impact, so that we can support and promote accordingly.

Kind regards,

Chris Simpkins
Director General

Key dates forming the basis of Government-led commemorations:

1. **4 August 2014:** National services to mark 100th Anniversary of Britain declaring war on Germany
2. **25 April 2015:** Events to mark commencement of Battle of Gallipoli
3. **1 July 2016:** Events to mark the first day of the Battle of the Somme
4. **31 May - 01 June 2016 :** Events to mark the naval Battle of Jutland
5. **June - November 2017:** Events to mark the Battle of Passchendaele (The Third Battle of Ypres)
6. **08 August - 11 November 2018:** The last 100 days from the commencement of the Battle of Amiens to the Armistice on 11 November will be a period of national commemoration.

Also, while not a part of the official Government agenda, we are likely to see significant activity surrounding:

7. **24-25 December 2014:** Christmas truce football matches in Flanders

Veterans Amazing Link-up



Pictured centre at Wigan war memorial, former soldier Malcolm Vickers, secretary of the Friendly Loyals, flanked by left Joe Unsworth, committee member of Hindley branch of the Friendly Loyals group, and, right, standard bearer and secretary of the St Helens branch of the Burma Star Association with a photo of Malcolm's uncle, Neville Sidlow, who served and died in Burma.

WHEN two members of a Wigan veterans' group met for the first time they had no idea of the relationship that linked them. Malcolm Vickers is the secretary of The Friendly Loyals, based in Hindley, and when Lawrence Powers joined the group last year the pair immediately became friends. But it wasn't until recently that they discovered that their bond went much deeper than they initially thought. Just a few weeks ago Mr Powers took a wreath to a group meetings to ask if any members would like to lay it at one of the local war memorials. Mr Vickers said: "I asked Lawrence if I could lay the wreath at the Westhoughton Memorial in remembrance of my uncle Neville and all the other young lads who did not return to their hometowns. "Mr Powers then asked me the last name of my uncle Neville and when I said Sidlow he took a step back and did not speak for a few moments. We could not believe the coincidence."

Courtesy of Wigan Observer.



103rd Regiment Royal Artillery (Volunteers)

103 Regiment Royal Artillery are a Territorial Army Regiment based here in the North West of England. With TA Centres and soldiers in Liverpool, St Helens, Bolton and Manchester we have a strong presence in some of the most important cities in this country. Our soldiers come from your communities and have represented this country superbly on operations in Iraq and Afghanistan in recent years.

One area where we want to do more is working closely with our communities and building strong links between the Armed Forces and the people here in the North West, and especially so with our Youth. My soldiers are first and foremost members of your communities, but they also proudly serve their country and are superb role models for all ages. They are able to stand shoulder to shoulder with regular soldiers and more than hold their own.

If there is anything we can do to engage with you, your organisation or your community then do please get in touch. We have a track record of delivering fun, challenging, interesting and rewarding events to Colleges, Charities and Youth Organisations here in the North West. My soldiers are keen to reinvest back into the communities that they come from some of the skills and lessons they have learned in the Army.

This brochure outlines the format for the Personal Development Days we can run and I hope that it is of interest to you and that we can find ways to work together in the future.

Richard Jordan
Lieutenant Colonel
Commanding Officer
103rd Regiment Royal Artillery (Volunteers)

Every member of our team has gone through this training so you can rest assured that we are here to bring out the best in your group and hopefully prepare them just that little bit more for future opportunities.

For further information please contact Captain H Steutel, Regimental Operations Support Officer, 103 Regiment RA (V), Jubilee Barracks, Prescott Rd, St Helens, WA10 3UB
Tel 01744-697822
Email 103RA-ROSO@mod.uk

ON BEHALF OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL

Dear Colleagues:

Many of you are being asked about The Royal British Legion's activities linked to the WWI Centenary Commemorations from 2014 – 2018.

I therefore felt it appropriate to set out in broad terms what we will be doing at national level and to give you background information on our overall strategy.

Within the organisation, I will hold overall responsibility for the WWI Centenary activities, supported by Robert Lee, Assistant Director of Marketing.

The Government is taking the lead on national activities and the Prime Minister has announced a £50million commitment to support the Centenary, including special focus on local activities and delivering a cultural and educational legacy for young people.

The Legion is determined that the tone will be one of commemoration, not celebration; and that Centenary activities will be available to all and kept free of partisan or sectarian bias.

The Legion is therefore working closely with the Prime Minister's Special Representative on the Centenary, Dr Andrew Murrison; various other Ministers and Government Departments; and stakeholders such as The Imperial War Museum, The Commonwealth War Graves Commission, and the National Archives. We are linking closely to activities being co-ordinated in Scotland, Wales and Ireland.

In terms of national initiatives, I have created a Legion WWI Centenary Working Group including the parent charity, the National Memorial Arboretum and Poppyscotland.

This group will meet regularly to evaluate external project and partnership proposals and its priority will be to select projects that support our own beneficiaries, Members, and our charitable pillars, in particular Comradeship and Remembrance.

We have a range of national projects already committed, and the Board of Trustees will shortly be considering the development of the new Visitor's Centre at the National Memorial Arboretum (our own centre of Remembrance), exciting plans for Remembrance Travel and special WWI resources for schools produced as part of the Legion's learning programme.

I will be looking to the regions and local branches to support our na-